

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 24, 2022

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Thayn, Vice Chairman Lent, Senators Den Hartog, Crabtree, Blair (Johnson), Cook, Ward-Engelking, and Nelson

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Woodward

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies, and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Thayn** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:03 p.m.

PRESENTATION: **Dr. Tracy J. Farnsworth**, President of Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine (ICOM), provided an update on Idaho's first Medical School. Dr. Farnsworth started with a brief history of his background in medical education. Continuing the presentation, Dr. Farnsworth went over the timeline for ICOM, announcing the facility opening, accreditation from the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA), and the granting of proprietary registration from the Idaho State Board of Education (SBOE). ICOM has a public/private partnership with Idaho State University (ISU).

Dr. Farnsworth provided a high-level overview of Idaho's first private medical school which included retention rates, clinical rotations, and residencies. ICOM has a special focus on primary care in rural Idaho and preventative medicine. The first class to graduate will be in May of 2022, with an inaugural commencement ceremony. He noted that the partnership with ISU is integral, including faculty that are members of the Board of Trustees, with the added benefit of shared research and training in integrative units of teams for and inter-professional education. These healthcare providers receive a medical degree such as a masters in health administration or health informatics. The demographics include roughly 20 percent of students who come from Idaho, which would be a goal to increase over time. He pointed out that there are articulation agreements with Idaho State University (ISU), Boise State University (BSU), and other colleges. The retention rate is very high as well as the quality of education from ICOM. The first two years, students receive biomedical science education, and continue on to community-based medical education for rotation. These rotations are collaborative with the states served by the University of Washington School of Medicine: Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho (WWAMI) as well as other programs that require clinical rotations. He stated that all medical students continue on to a Graduate Medical Education (GME) program which is a residency that lasts anywhere from 3-5 years. ICOM would like to grow in this area, fully supporting the ten-year plan for GME, and establishing the Mountain States Institute for GME (Institute). The goal is to fill a gap for the social and economic impact of a primary care physician in rural communities. (See attachment 1).

DISCUSSION: **Senator Den Hartog** inquired on the percentage of students that graduate, and whether or not they would continue on to a residency in Idaho. **Dr. Farnsworth** explained that students from all over the country compete for residency spots in Idaho. As the GME program grows, more residency spots will open up.

Senator Nelson asked what the timeframe looked like for the aim for growth of the Institute would be. **Dr. Farnsworth** briefly explained that the Institute is a 501c3 Foundation, is accredited by a national body, and is currently working on their strategic plan. The purpose of the Institute is to partner with other hospitals in the region to help them stand up and operate accredited GME programs, which, at this point, is in the beginning stages of timeline development.

Chairman Thayn raised questions regarding the focus on primary care residencies and what kind of practice the student will enter into upon completion. **Dr. Farnsworth** answered by stating that there are many medical specialties, however most students that enter into a primary care or family practice medicine residence learn how to become expert family physicians.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time. **Chairman Thayn** adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Senator Thayn
Chair

Katy Morden
Secretary